

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 14-18, 21, 23, 25-27, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stull (U.S. Patent No. 3,439,842). Claims 43, 45, 48, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Greatbatch (U.S. Patent No. 5,609,276).

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections, independent Claims 1, 8, 43, and 49 have been amended to recite Applicants' invention with greater particularity. Claim 1 as presently amended recites, *inter alia*, a one-piece hollow cap having an integrally formed sidewall, top, post, support structure, and internal cap ring. The top extends radially down from a substantially central cap opening to the end of the top at the sidewall of the cap. The applied reference, namely Stull, fails to disclose or suggest a one-piece hollow cap having a sidewall, top, post, support structure, and internal cap ring formed as one piece, with the top extending radially down from a substantially central cap opening to the end of the top at the sidewall of the cap. Accordingly, Claim 1, at least as presently amended, is patentable over the applied reference.

Amended Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, a closure arrangement that includes a receiver piece and a hollow cap. The receiver piece has a receiver opening that is substantially cylindrical and extends completely through the receiver piece from the top end to the bottom end. The hollow cap includes an integrally formed sidewall, top, post, support structure, and internal cap ring. In addition to the deficiencies discussed previously, Stull fails to disclose or suggest a closure arrangement that includes a receiver piece and a hollow cap, with the receiver piece having a receiver opening that is

substantially cylindrical and extends completely through the receiver piece from the top end to the bottom end. In contrast to the cylindrical receiver opening in Applicants' claimed invention, the opening in Stull varies in cross-sectional shape and dimension throughout its length. Accordingly, Claim 8, at least as presently amended, is patentable over the applied reference. Independent Claim 17 recites a container that includes the closure arrangement of Claim 8 and is, therefore, patentable over Stull at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 8.

Amended Claim 49 recites, *inter alia*, a dispenser that includes a dispenser sidewall molded as one piece, a receiver piece having a receiver opening that is substantially cylindrical and extends completely through the receiver piece, and a cap that slidably engages the receiver piece with a push-pull motion. In addition to the deficiencies discussed previously, Stull neither discloses nor suggests a dispenser that includes a dispenser sidewall molded as one piece. Claim 49, at least as presently amended, is therefore patentable over the applied reference.

Claim 43 as presently amended recites, *inter alia*, a hollow cap that includes a sidewall, a top, a post for sealingly engaging a receiver opening of a receiver piece, a support structure, an internal cap ring, and a thread for slidingly engaging a ramp of the receiver piece. The post is substantially cylindrical, and the cap is molded as one piece. The applied reference, namely Greatbatch, neither discloses nor suggests a hollow cap that includes a sidewall, a top, a post for sealingly engaging a receiver opening of a receiver piece, a support structure, an internal cap ring, and a thread for slidingly engaging a ramp of the receiver piece, with the post being substantially cylindrical and the cap being molded as one piece. Indeed, Greatbatch discloses a two-piece cap (1) having an inner part (4) and an outer part (5). See Greatbatch col. 3, lines 27-28. In

further contrast with the substantially cylindrical plug of Applicants' claimed invention, the Greatbatch plug (10) is formed with a frusto-conical surface. See Greatbatch col. 4, line 12. Accordingly, Claim 43, at least as presently amended, is patentable over the applied reference. Independent Claim 51 recites a closure arrangement that includes the cap of Claim 43 and is, therefore, patentable over Greatbatch at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 43.

As can be seen from the previous discussion, independent Claims 1, 8, 17, 43, 49, and 51 distinguish patentably over the applied references and should therefore be allowed, as should their respective dependent claims. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.


Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T4289PC-13136US01) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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